

The Change in Progress

River//Cities Platform Foundation

Our Changemaker

Iwona Zając –with the experience of a participatory work

- - as a visual artist working in the shipyard area: her story collecting and telling focused on the retired or made redundant shipyard workers (male), her activities empowered those people by giving them voice
- - as a curator/educator at Sopot Museum the social context are Sopot residents past and present - by collecting items and stories connected to them the museum develops very close bonds with their audiences



Photo: Memory of Water archives

Changemaker's Method #1

Iwona Zając's works carry an emotional load and stem from the human experience. The artist pays attention to the location of a project – she starts with collecting detailed information and meets with the people to whom it will be directly or indirectly related.

To avoid intrusive interventions, she develops strong relationships with people, including inviting them to cooperate - and listens to their stories. Her practice carries respect for hard labour, which determined the medium of her self-expression – murals require a lot of time and, at the same time, enormous care and attention.



Photo by W. Ochmann, River//Cities Platform Foundation Archives

Changemaker's method #2

"I've been approached by people who asked for the mural-related materials to be publicly accessible. The result was a www.stoczniaweterze.com website in both Polish and English. It contains transcripts, recorded testimonies of the workers as well as a photographic documentation of the „Shipyard” mural and a free digital „Shipyard” catalogue. This way I'd like to preserve a part of history of our city and of the people that live in it."



www.stoczniaweterze.com

Our Interaction with the Changemaker

- Presentation and discussion
- Guided tour through the shipyard



Photos: River//Cities Archives

Our Cultural Patrimony



- Gdansk Shipyard Aspects
- -the importance of the Shipyard in the history of Gdansk and Poland, in shaping the largest socio political movement in Europe: "Solidarity" .
- - iconic symbols of the Solidarity movement and remaining industrial architecture,
- -examples in the built environment, which are hidden or, have, unfortunately, disappeared as a result of the transformation of the post-shipyard area.
- - the history of this place through the prism of individual human history
- This wealth of tangible and intangible heritage means that "Gdańsk Shipyard" is not only an extremely important place on the map of our city, but also in our hearts. Subsequent plans for developing the post-shipyard areas arouse great emotions as well as great hopes.

Photo: River//Cities Archives

Memory of Water

Post shipyard area is also the focus on another project “Memory of Water”,

in which R//C is a Knowledge Partner and Iwona Zając a resident artist



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

Photo: Memory of Water Archives



Our Work in Gdansk

Using 'The Social Code' to drive your organisational narrative:

1. **Creation myth:** describes how it all started
2. **Creed:** core beliefs of the organisation, based on shared values and mission. This is why we're here.
3. **Icons:** a sensory shared experience which connects people. This is how we identify ourselves, and each other.
4. **Ritual:** shared actions which create order from chaos, break down streams of existence. Here's how we do things.
5. **Lexicon:** a shared language in-members understand, how we describe ourselves.
6. **Non-believers:** an opposition which reinforces the in-group. This is what we are not.
7. **Leader:** person, discussion etc. any locus point for people to collect around

Edited version // Avril ;)

We are all single water drops, which are not very forceful by themselves, but when gathered together they form little creeks which flow into bigger rivers with strong currents powerful enough to generate positive energy.

All water drops in a river work together and learn from each other. If there is a obstacle like a rock we flow around it and follow the water drops in front of us.

Through River/ /cities we would like to share ideas, learn from each other and work together to create cultural activities for the better life of people and nature on waterfronts across Europe.

We would like to make a change not only in our neighbourhoods but also in our cities, countries and on a global scale.